(f) whether Government propose to withdraw the rigs from West Bengal, Bihar, Tripura, Gujarat and Maharashtra; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. At present 26 charter hired rigs are working for ONGC.

(b) The number of rigs hired from different countries and the total rent paid during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Total No of rigs hired	Total rent paid (Rs./crores)
1991-92	6	92 98
1992-93	6	168.76
1993-94	8	131.88

(c) The internal market rates for rigs are not available since ONGC hires rigs against global tendering and the rates received are internationally competitive.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) At present ONGC does not propose to withdraw any rig from West Bengal, Tripura and Gujarat. There is no rig in operation in Bihar and Maharashtra as on 1.1.1995.

Crude output from Cambay and Assam basins

2554. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crude output from Cambay and Assam basins has been dwindling and the projected production target for the Eighth Five Year Plan is not likely to be achieved;

(b) if so, what is the progressive shortfall in the crude output from Cambay and Assam basins during the last three years and what is the ultimate shortfall anticipated during the plan period;

(c) what is the likely impact on the refineries linked to the region's crude oil; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to move in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) During the three year period 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, a shortfall in crude oil production to the extent of about 4.13 million tonnes in Cambay basin and about 5.01 million tonnes in Assam basin is expected with reference to the Eighth Plan target fixed in Sept.' 91. During the entire plan period a total shortfall in production to the extent of about 17.49 million tonnes is expected from these two basins.

(c) and (d) The shortfall in indigenous production of crude oil is met through imports.

Effect of decontrol on petroleum products on the fertilizer industry

2555. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's decontrol of prices of petroleum products will adversely affect the fertilizer industry since it would experience difficulty in accommodating a higher price which will be consequential eventuality, and NAPTHA, an essential ingredient for production of fertilizer, will cost much more; and

(b) if so, what measures are being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) A 'Strategic

Planning Group' on restructuring the National Oil Industry with members comprising of top management from public and private sector and leading experts from academic and research institutes, has been formed. The group has not yet submitted its report.

Joint sector company for gas supply in madras

2556. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has suggested to form a joint sector company to take over small gas structures of the O.N.G.C. for commercial exploitation and for supply of gas through pipes to Madras in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what are the details of this proposal; and

(c) whether Government would entrust this project to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

हालैंड का एक तेल शोधक कारखाने के संबंध में सम्भाव्यता अध्ययन कराने का प्रस्ताव

2557. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या विदेशी पूंजी निवेश संवर्धन बोर्ड ने देश में तेल शोधक कारखाना स्थापित करने हेतु संभाव्यता अध्ययन कराने के लिए हालैंड द्वारा भेजे गये प्रस्ताव को मंजूर कर लिया है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा): (क) और (ख) एफ०आई०पी०बी० द्वारा ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव विचारार्थ प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

Supply of half-filled cylinders in Andhra Pradesh

2558. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how does Government propose to deal with the problem of half-filled gas cylinders sold to consumers;

(b) the details of steps taken to deal with this menace;

(c) whether any action been taken against the erring dealers in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) There are clearly laid down procedures to ensure correctness of the weight of LPG refill cylinders at the bottling plants. All filled cylinders are provided with pilfer-proof seal. All LPG dealers are under instructions to ensure checking of each and every cylinder for correct weight prior to delivery to customers' premises. As and when specific complaints about the sale of under-weight cylinders are received, the same are investigated in detail and if the complaints is established, appropriate action is taken against the distributor under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and also by the State Governments through their Weights and Measures Departments. During the period April-December, 1994, one established complaint regarding supply of under-weight cylinder has been received in Andhra Pradesh. A letter of caution has been issued to the distributor. The cylinder has been replaced free of cost to the consumer.